



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,450	09/20/2003	Yurdaer Nezihi Doganata	CHA9 2002 0010US1	4523
45095	7590	08/30/2010	EXAMINER	
HOFFMAN WARNICK LLC			DWIVEDI, MAHESH H	
75 STATE ST				
14 FL				
ALBANY, NY 12207				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2168	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/30/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTOCommunications@hoffmanwarnick.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/664,450	Applicant(s) DOGANATA ET AL.	
	Examiner MAHESH H. DWIVEDI	Art Unit 2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-9 and 12-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-9 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/09/2010 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Receipt of Applicant's Amendment, filed on 08/09/2010, is acknowledged. The amendment includes the submission of a 1.131 Declaration, and the amending of claims 12 and 14.

Remarks

3. The examiner acknowledges the submission of the Rule 1.131 declaration on 08/09/2010. However, the examiner wishes to state that the Rule 1.131 declaration submitted on 08/09/2010 is not sufficient to overcome the prior art.

Regarding applicant's declaration of "**subsequent to the conception of the invention, and up until the patent application filing date of September 11, 2003, we diligently and actively assisted the IBM Corporation Patent Department in the planning, preparation, review, and filing of the above-identified patent application**", the examiner wishes to state that the actual filing date of the instant application was 09/20/2003 and NOT 09/11/2003 as applicants contend. Moreover, the examiner wishes to refer to the MPEP which states "The affidavit or declaration must state FACTS and produce such documentary evidence and exhibits in support thereof as are available to show conception and completion of invention in this country or in a NAFTA or WTO member country (MPEP § 715.07(c)), at least the conception being at a date prior to the effective date of the reference. Where there has not been reduction to practice prior to the date of the reference, the applicant or patent owner must also show diligence in the completion of his or her invention from a time just prior to the date of the reference continuously up to the date of an actual reduction to practice or up to

Art Unit: 2168

the date of filing his or her application (filing constitutes a constructive reduction to practice, 37 CFR 1.131). As discussed above, 37 CFR 1.131(b) provides three ways in which an applicant can establish prior invention of the claimed subject matter. The showing of facts must be sufficient to show: (A) > (actual)< reduction to practice of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference; or (B) conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference coupled with due diligence from prior to the reference date to a subsequent (actual) reduction to practice; or (C) conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference coupled with due diligence from prior to the reference date to the filing date of the application (constructive reduction to practice)." (MPEP 715.07 [R-3]) and "THE ENTIRE PERIOD DURING WHICH DILIGENCE IS REQUIRED MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY EITHER AFFIRMATIVE ACTS OR ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES. An applicant must account for the entire period during which diligence is required. *Gould v. Schawlow*, 363 F.2d 908, 919, 150 USPQ 634, 643 (CCPA 1966) (Merely stating that there were no weeks or months that the invention was not worked on is not enough.); *In re Harry*, 333 F.2d 920, 923, 142 USPQ 164, 166 (CCPA 1964) (statement that the subject matter "was diligently reduced to practice" is not a showing but a mere pleading). A 2-day period lacking activity has been held to be fatal. *In re Mulder*, 716 F.2d 1542, 1545, 219 USPQ 189, 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983)" (See MPEP, Section: 2138.06 [R-1]), and "What is meant by diligence is brought out in *Christie v. Seybold*, 1893 C.D. 515, 64 O.G. 1650 (6th Cir. 1893). In patent law, an inventor is either diligent at a given time or he is not diligent; there are no degrees of diligence" (See MPEP, Section: 715.07 (a)).

Because applicants are claiming conception with due diligence till 09/11/2003 and not till the date of filing (09/20/2003), then as a result, the 1.131 declaration filed on 08/09/2010 is insufficient to overcome the cited art.

In addition, because applicant is claiming conception, then due diligence is required. See MPEP 715.07 [R-3] "The affidavit or declaration must state FACTS and produce such documentary evidence and exhibits in support thereof as are available to show conception and completion of invention in this country or in a NAFTA or WTO member country (MPEP § 715.07(c)), at least the conception being at a date prior to

Art Unit: 2168

the effective date of the reference. Where there has not been reduction to practice prior to the date of the reference, the applicant or patent owner must also show diligence in the completion of his or her invention from a time just prior to the date of the reference continuously up to the date of an actual reduction to practice or up to the date of filing his or her application (filing constitutes a constructive reduction to practice, 37 CFR 1.131). As discussed above, 37 CFR 1.131(b) provides three ways in which an applicant can establish prior invention of the claimed subject matter. The showing of facts must be sufficient to show: (A) > (actual)< reduction to practice of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference; or (B) conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference coupled with due diligence from prior to the reference date to a subsequent (actual) reduction to practice; or (C) conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference coupled with due diligence from prior to the reference date to the filing date of the application (constructive reduction to practice)."

The examiner wishes to recite from the MPEP, the following: "THE ENTIRE PERIOD DURING WHICH DILIGENCE IS REQUIRED MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY EITHER AFFIRMATIVE ACTS OR ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES. An applicant must account for the entire period during which diligence is required. *Gould v. Schawlow*, 363 F.2d 908, 919, 150 USPQ 634, 643 (CCPA 1966) (Merely stating that there were no weeks or months that the invention was not worked on is not enough.); *In re Harry*, 333 F.2d 920, 923, 142 USPQ 164, 166 (CCPA 1964) (statement that the subject matter "was diligently reduced to practice" is not a showing but a mere pleading). A 2-day period lacking activity has been held to be fatal. *In re Mulder*, 716 F.2d 1542, 1545, 219 USPQ 189, 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983)" (See MPEP, Section: 2138.06 [R-1]), and "What is meant by diligence is brought out in *Christie v. Seybold*, 1893 C.D. 515, 64 O.G. 1650 (6th Cir. 1893). In patent law, an inventor is either diligent at a given time or he is not diligent; there are no degrees of diligence" (See MPEP, Section: 715.07 (a)).

The evidence provided by applicants does not show due diligence. Specifically, no due diligence is shown from the period from applicant's claim of conception (prior to 06/16/2003) to the filing date of the instant application (09/20/2003). Because there is no evidence that supports diligence, the claim of conception is not supported.

Therefore, Applicant's assertion of conception is not convincing and unsupported by the declaration filed on 08/09/2010.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1, 4-5, 9, 12-13, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Davallou** (U.S. PGPUB 2002/0156776) in view of **Brill et al.** (U.S. PGPUB 2004/0254920).

7. Regarding claim 1, **Davallou** teaches a search system comprising:

C) a relevant document finder based on enhanced queries including the alternative query terms to locate relevant documents in the searched database not found when the unsatisfactory customer search queries were used (Paragraphs 25 and 28); and
D) embedding in located relevant documents not found by the unsuccessful search queries those of the original unsuccessful search query terms not contained in those relevant documents (Paragraph 28).

The examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a relevant document finder based on enhanced queries including the alternative query terms to locate relevant documents in the searched database not found when the unsatisfactory**

Art Unit: 2168

customer search queries were used” as “In this respect, when "Baballoo" is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating "no match found." This would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to "ou" from "oo" to account for the possible similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes” (Paragraph 25) and “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that using phonetics to find successful sought-after URL web pages teaches the claimed relevant document finder. The examiner further notes that Davallou teaches **“embedding in located relevant documents not found by the unsuccessful search queries those of the original unsuccessful search query**

terms not contained in those relevant documents” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed embedding because the aforementioned confirmation is added to the error database.

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

- A) a search system analysis system that periodically looks through a log of search queries of the search system and identifies, for analyzing, unsatisfactory, for analyzing, unsatisfactory customer search queries that do not bring satisfactory results from a database being searched by the customers; and
- B) a search query analyzer using synonyms and optionally, one or more of glossary terms, known typographical errors and translated words to provide alternative query terms to original search query terms in the unsatisfactory customer search queries.

Brill, however, teaches “a search system analysis system that periodically looks through a log of search queries of the search system and identifies, for analyzing, unsatisfactory, for analyzing, unsatisfactory customer search queries that do not bring satisfactory results from a database being searched by the customers” as “FIG. 1 illustrates a system 100 that analyzes a query log to facilitate search engine returned results in accordance with an aspect of the present invention. The system 100 includes a profile generator 110 that can generate a distributional characteristic for a set of queries and a rules bank 120 that can store one or more distributional algorithms employed by the profile generator 110. In general, the profile generator 110 can access the rules bank 120 and retrieve the distributional algorithm (e.g., an instruction set). Then, the profile generator 110 can obtain the set of queries from the query log, based in part on the distributional algorithm selected” (Paragraph 30) and “The set of queries obtained by the profile generator 110 can comprise one or more of the saved search queries or a null set, and is typically dependent on the distributional algorithm selected for employment” (Paragraph 32) and **“a search query analyzer using synonyms and optionally, one or more of glossary terms, known typographical errors and translated words to provide alternative query terms to original search query terms in the unsatisfactory customer search queries”** as “The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering” (Paragraph 26) and “The query engine 520 can then employs the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms, detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering. Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query

Art Unit: 2168

transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile” (Paragraph 69).

The examiner further notes that the selection of queries from the query log includes queries that returned null results (unsuccessful queries).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Brill’s** would have allowed **Davallou’s** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Regarding claim 4, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:

A) associating enhanced queries with the unsatisfactory search queries in the search system log for use with further queries (Paragraph 28).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**associating enhanced queries with the unsatisfactory search queries in the search system log for use with further queries**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored

in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed associating.

Regarding claim 5, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:

A) including ranking the results of searches using both the unsatisfactory and the enhanced search queries (Paragraph 23).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**including ranking the results of searches using both the unsatisfactory and the enhanced search queries**” as “where multiple potential result candidates are displayed or communicated to the user, they are preferably communicated in an array. To facilitate a more simplistic way of sorting through the data array, such an array may be sorted alphabetically or in order of relevance” (Paragraph 23).

Regarding claim 9, **Davallou** teaches a computer program comprising:

C) a relevant document finder software module using enhanced queries including the alternative query terms to locate relevant documents not found using said unsuccessful customer search queries (Paragraphs 25 and 28); and

D) software for embedding search query terms of the unsuccessful queries in the documents located by the enhanced queries and not found by the unsuccessful customer search so that the documents located by the enhanced queries will be found if the unsuccessful customer search queries are repeated (Paragraph 28).

The examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a relevant document finder software module using enhanced queries including the alternative query terms to locate relevant documents not found using said unsuccessful customer search queries**” as “In this respect, when “Babaloo” is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating “no match found.” This

Art Unit: 2168

would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to "ou" from "oo" to account for the possible similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes" (Paragraph 25) and "As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record" (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that using phonetics to find successful sought-after URL web pages teaches the claimed relevant document finder. The examiner further notes that Davallou teaches **"software for embedding search query terms of the unsuccessful queries in the documents located by the enhanced queries and not found by the unsuccessful customer search so that the documents located by the enhanced queries will be found if the unsuccessful customer search queries are repeated"** as "As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable

Art Unit: 2168

unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed embedding because the aforementioned confirmation is added to the error database.

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

- A) a search system analog system software module that periodically looks through a log for the search system and selects for analyzing unsuccessful customer search queries; and
- B) a search query analyzer software module using synonyms and optionally, one or more of glossary terms, known typographical errors and translated words to provide alternative query terms to the terms used in the unsuccessful search queries.

Brill, however, teaches “**a search system analog system software module that periodically looks through a log for the search system and selects for analyzing unsuccessful customer search queries**” as “FIG. 1 illustrates a system 100 that analyzes a query log to facilitate search engine returned results in accordance with an aspect of the present invention. The system 100 includes a profile generator

Art Unit: 2168

110 that can generate a distributional characteristic for a set of queries and a rules bank 120 that can store one or more distributional algorithms employed by the profile generator 110. In general, the profile generator 110 can access the rules bank 120 and retrieve the distributional algorithm (e.g., an instruction set). Then, the profile generator 110 can obtain the set of queries from the query log, based in part on the distributional algorithm selected” (Paragraph 30) and “The set of queries obtained by the profile generator 110 can comprise one or more of the saved search queries or a null set, and is typically dependent on the distributional algorithm selected for employment” (Paragraph 32) and **“a search query analyzer software module using synonyms and optionally, one or more of glossary terms, known typographical errors and translated words to provide alternative query terms to the terms used in the unsuccessful search queries”** as “The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering” (Paragraph 26) and “The query engine 520 can then employs the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms, detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering. Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile” (Paragraph 69).

The examiner further notes that the selection of queries from the query log includes queries that returned null results (unsuccessful queries).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching

Brill's would have allowed **Davallou's** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Regarding claim 12, **Davallou** further teaches a computer program comprising:
A) software for providing associated enhanced keyword queries with keywords from the unsatisfactory queries in the search system log for use in connection with further customer queries (Paragraph 28).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**software for providing associated enhanced keyword queries with keywords from the unsatisfactory queries in the search system log for use in connection with further customer queries**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed associating.

Regarding claim 13, **Davallou** further teaches a computer program comprising:
A) **including software for ranking results of searches in order of their pertinency using the enhanced keyword query terms as a ranking basis** (Paragraph 23).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**including ranking the results of searches using both the unsatisfactory and the enhanced search queries**” as “where multiple potential result candidates are displayed or communicated to the user, they are preferably communicated in an array. To facilitate a more simplistic way of sorting through the data array, such an array may be sorted alphabetically or in order of relevance” (Paragraph 23).

Regarding claim 17, **Davallou** teaches a search system comprising:
C) a relevant document finder based on enhanced queries including the alternative query terms to locate relevant documents not found by the original unsatisfactory customer search queries identified by the search system analysis system (Paragraphs 25 and 28); and
D) a meta-data enhancer creating separate enhanced links to one or more of said relevant documents linking to said relevant documents the original terms of the unsatisfactory search queries and not found in the relevant documents so that future search queries using the original terms will result in finding said relevant documents not found by the unsatisfactory customer search queries (Paragraph 28).

The examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a relevant document finder based on enhanced queries including the alternative query terms to locate relevant documents not found by the original unsatisfactory customer search queries identified by the search system analysis system**” as “In this respect, when “Babaloo” is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating “no match found.” This would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to “ou” from “oo” to account for the possible

Art Unit: 2168

similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes” (Paragraph 25) and “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that using phonetics to find successful sought-after URL web pages teaches the claimed relevant document finder. The examiner further notes that Davallou teaches **“a meta-data enhancer creating separate enhanced links to one or more of said relevant documents linking to said relevant documents the original terms of the unsatisfactory search queries and not found in the relevant documents so that future search queries using the original terms will result in finding said relevant documents not found by the unsatisfactory customer search queries”** as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein.

Art Unit: 2168

Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed embedding because the aforementioned confirmation is added to the error database.

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

- A) a search system analysis system that periodically looks through a log of search queries of the search system and identifies, for analyzing, unsatisfactory, for analyzing, unsatisfactory customer search queries that do not bring satisfactory results from a database being searched by the customers; and
- B) a search query analyzer using synonyms and optionally, one or more of the glossary terms, known typographical errors and translated words to provide alternative query terms to original query terms in the unsatisfactory customer search queries identified by the search system analysis system.

Brill, however, teaches “**a search system analysis system that periodically looks through a search system log and identifies for analysis unsatisfactory customer search queries that do not cite more than a specified number of references**” as “FIG. 1 illustrates a system 100 that analyzes a query log to facilitate

Art Unit: 2168

search engine returned results in accordance with an aspect of the present invention. The system 100 includes a profile generator 110 that can generate a distributional characteristic for a set of queries and a rules bank 120 that can store one or more distributional algorithms employed by the profile generator 110. In general, the profile generator 110 can access the rules bank 120 and retrieve the distributional algorithm (e.g., an instruction set). Then, the profile generator 110 can obtain the set of queries from the query log, based in part on the distributional algorithm selected” (Paragraph 30) and “The set of queries obtained by the profile generator 110 can comprise one or more of the saved search queries or a null set, and is typically dependent on the distributional algorithm selected for employment” (Paragraph 32) and **“a search query analyzer using synonyms and optionally, one or more of the glossary terms, known typographical errors and translated words to provide alternative query terms to original query terms in the unsatisfactory customer search queries identified by the search system analysis system”** as “The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering” (Paragraph 26) and “The query engine 520 can then employs the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms, detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering. Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile” (Paragraph 69).

The examiner further notes that the selection of queries from the query log includes queries that returned null results (queries that do not cite more than a specified number of references (i.e., "0")).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Brill's** would have allowed **Davallou's** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Regarding claim 18, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:

A) wherein said meta-data enhancer links the alternative query terms to the original query terms to automatically locate said relevant documents (Paragraph 28).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches "**wherein said meta-data enhancer links the alternative query terms to the original query terms to automatically locate said relevant documents**" as "As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the

Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record" (Paragraph 28).

8. Claims 6-8, 14-16, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Davallou** (U.S. PG PUB 2002/0156776) in view of **Brill et al.** (U.S. PG PUB 2004/0254920) as applied to claims 1, 4-5, 9, 12-13, and 17-18 above, and further in view of **Whitman et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,772,150).

9. Regarding claim 6, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:

A) wherein the search query analyzer comprises a module including: a sub-module that identifies domain specific terms in a given unsuccessful search query, using a domain specific glossary (Paragraph 34);

C) a sub-module that finds other statistically close terms (Paragraph 25).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches "**wherein the search query analyzer comprises a module including: a sub-module that identifies domain specific terms in a given unsuccessful search query, using a domain specific glossary**" as "Additionally, a common dictionary-based spell check system may be employed and integrated within the system to further add a layer of accuracy to the results suggested and delivered to the end-user based on the end-user's language of preference. This may facilitate accurate suggestions made when the lack of search results is not due to misspellings of proper nouns (with various possible spellings), but rather due to misspellings of regular words within a language's given dictionary. Such a spell check system may be provided as an initial step in the novel method of the present invention" (Paragraph 34). The examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches "**a sub-module that finds other statistically close terms**" as "In this respect, when "Baballoo" is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating "no match found." This would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to "ou" from "oo" to account for the possible similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible

Art Unit: 2168

examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes” (Paragraph 25).

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

B) a sub-module that finds synonyms and related terms for the identified domain specific terms, using a domain specific thesaurus.

Brill, however, teaches “**a sub-module that finds synonyms and related terms for the identified domain specific terms, using domain specific thesaurus**”

as “The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering”

(Paragraph 26) and “The query engine 520 can then employs the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms, detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering.

Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile” (Paragraph 69).

The examiner further notes that the use of a specific distributional characteristic in order to determine synonymous terms teaches the claimed domain specific thesaurus.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Brill’s** would have allowed **Davallou’s** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Davallou and **Brill** do not explicitly teach:

Art Unit: 2168

D) a sub-module that identifies relevant domain specific categories for the identified terms, using a domain specific ontology.

Whitman, however, teaches “**a sub-module that identifies relevant domain specific categories for the identified terms, using a domain specific ontology**” as “As further depicted by FIG. 1, each related search phrase 142 and key term 140 preferably include a single-character field prefix which indicates the search field to which the term corresponds. These prefixes may, for example, be as follows: A=author, T=title, S=subject, R=artist, L=label, B=general book; G=general item” (Column 05, lines 13-19).

The examiner notes that the prefixes correspond to the terms of the query and teach the claimed categories (subject, general book as examples).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Whitman's** would have allowed **Davallou's** and **Brill's** to provide a search query refinement process that is more narrowly tailored to a user's request, as noted by **Whitman** (Column 01, lines 56-58).

Regarding claim 7, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:
B) a sub-module that filters the found relevant documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the identified domain specific terms, related terms, and statistically close terms (Paragraphs 25, 34).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a sub-module that filters the found relevant documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the identified domain specific terms, related terms, and statistically close terms**” as “In this respect, when "Baballoo" is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating "no match found." This would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to "ou" from "oo" to account for the possible similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves

Art Unit: 2168

time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes" (Paragraph 25), "Additionally, a common dictionary-based spell check system may be employed and integrated within the system to further add a layer of accuracy to the results suggested and delivered to the end-user based on the end-user's language of preference. This may facilitate accurate suggestions made when the lack of search results is not due to misspellings of proper nouns (with various possible spellings), but rather due to misspellings of regular words within a language's given dictionary. Such a spell check system may be provided as an initial step in the novel method of the present invention" (Paragraph 34).

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

B) a sub-module that filters the found relevant documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the synonyms.

Brill, however, teaches "**a sub-module that filters the found relevant documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the synonyms**" as "The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering" (Paragraph 26) and "The query engine 520 can then employ the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms, detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering. Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile" (Paragraph 69).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Brill's** would have allowed **Davallou's** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Davallou and **Brill** do not explicitly teach:

A) wherein the document finder comprises a module including the following sub-modules: a sub-module that finds the relevant documents in the identified categories, using an original textual index.

Whitman, however, teaches “**wherein the document finder comprises a module including the following sub-modules: a sub-module that finds the relevant documents in the identified categories, using an original textual index**” as “As further depicted by FIG. 1, each related search phrase 142 and key term 140 preferably include a single-character field prefix which indicates the search field to which the term corresponds. These prefixes may, for example, be as follows: A=author, T=title, S=subject, R=artist, L=label, B=general book; G=general item” (Column 05, lines 13-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Whitman's** would have allowed **Davallou's** and **Brill's** to provide a search query refinement process that is more narrowly tailored to a user's request, as noted by **Whitman** (Column 01, lines 56-58).

Regarding claim 8, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:

A) including a linking meta-data enhancer with the following sub-modules: a sub-module that creates associations (links) between each found relevant document and the given unsuccessful search query (Paragraph 28); and
B) a sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the corresponding textual index entries (Paragraph 28).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**including a linking meta-data enhancer with the following sub-modules: a sub-module that creates associations (links) between each found relevant document and the given unsuccessful search query**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed linking/associating. The examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the corresponding textual index entries**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and

Art Unit: 2168

the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed adding because the aforementioned confirmation is added to the error database.

Regarding claim 14, **Davallou** further teaches a computer program comprising:
A) wherein the search query analyzer software module comprises: a software module that identifies domain specific terms in a given query, using a domain specific glossary (Paragraph 34);
C) a software sub-module that finds other statistically close terms (Paragraph 25).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**wherein the search query analyzer software module comprises: a software module that identifies domain specific terms in a given query, using a domain specific glossary**” as “Additionally, a common dictionary-based spell check system may be employed and integrated within the system to further add a layer of accuracy to the results suggested and delivered to the end-user based on the end-user's language of preference. This may facilitate accurate suggestions made when the lack of search results is not due to misspellings of proper nouns (with various possible spellings), but rather due to misspellings of regular words within a language's given dictionary. Such a spell check system may be provided as an initial step in the novel method of the present invention” (Paragraph 34). The

Art Unit: 2168

examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a software sub-module that finds other statistically close terms**” as “In this respect, when “Baballoo” is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating “no match found.” This would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to “ou” from “oo” to account for the possible similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes” (Paragraph 25).

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

B) a software sub-module that finds synonyms and related terms for the identified terms, using a domain specific thesaurus.

Brill, however, teaches “**a software sub-module that finds synonyms and related terms for the identified terms, using a domain specific thesaurus**” as “The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering” (Paragraph 26) and “The query engine 520 can then employs the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms, detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering. Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile” (Paragraph 69).

Art Unit: 2168

The examiner further notes that the use of a specific distributional characteristic in order to determine synonymous terms teaches the claimed domain specific thesaurus.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Brill's** would have allowed **Davallou's** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Davallou and **Brill** do not explicitly teach:

D) a software sub-module that identifies relevant domain specific categories for the identified terms, using a domain specific ontology.

Whitman, however, teaches “**a software sub-module that identifies relevant domain specific categories for the identified terms, using a domain specific ontology**” as “As further depicted by FIG. 1, each related search phrase 142 and key term 140 preferably include a single-character field prefix which indicates the search field to which the term corresponds. These prefixes may, for example, be as follows: A=author, T=title, S=subject, R=artist, L=label, B=general book; G=general item” (Column 05, lines 13-19).

The examiner notes that the prefixes correspond to the terms of the query and teach the claimed categories (subject, general book as examples).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Whitman's** would have allowed **Davallou's** and **Brill's** to provide a search query refinement process that is more narrowly tailored to a user's request, as noted by **Whitman** (Column 01, lines 56-58).

Regarding claim 15, **Davallou** further teaches a computer program comprising:
B) a software sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the identified domain specific terms, related terms, and statistically close terms (Paragraphs 25, 34).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a software sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the identified domain specific terms, related terms, and statistically close terms**” as “In this respect, when “Babaloo” is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating “no match found.” This would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to “ou” from “oo” to account for the possible similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes” (Paragraph 25), “Additionally, a common dictionary-based spell check system may be employed and integrated within the system to further add a layer of accuracy to the results suggested and delivered to the end-user based on the end-user’s language of preference. This may facilitate accurate suggestions made when the lack of search results is not due to misspellings of proper nouns (with various possible spellings), but rather due to misspellings of regular words within a language’s given dictionary. Such a spell check system may be provided as an initial step in the novel method of the present invention” (Paragraph 34).

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

B) a software sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the synonyms.

Brill, however, teaches “**a software sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the identified domain specific terms, related terms, and statistically close terms**” as “The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering” (Paragraph 26) and “The

Art Unit: 2168

query engine 520 can then employs the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms, detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering. Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile” (Paragraph 69).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Brill’s** would have allowed **Davallou’s** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Davallou and **Brill** do not explicitly teach:

A) a document finder module that comprises the following software sub-modules: a software sub-module that finds documents in the identified categories, using the original textual index.

Whitman, however, teaches “**a document finder module that comprises the following software sub-modules: a software sub-module that finds documents in the identified categories, using the original textual index**” as “As further depicted by FIG. 1, each related search phrase 142 and key term 140 preferably include a single-character field prefix which indicates the search field to which the term corresponds. These prefixes may, for example, be as follows: A=author, T=title, S=subject, R=artist, L=label, B=general book; G=general item” (Column 05, lines 13-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Whitman’s** would have allowed **Davallou’s** and **Brill’s** to provide a search query

Art Unit: 2168

refinement process that is more narrowly tailored to a user's request, as noted by **Whitman** (Column 01, lines 56-58).

Regarding claim 16, **Davallou** further teaches a computer program comprising:

- A) wherein a meta-data enhancer module comprises the following sub-modules: a software sub-module that creates associations (links) between each found document and the given query (Paragraph 28); and
- B) a sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the corresponding textual index entries (Paragraph 28).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**wherein a meta-data enhancer module comprises the following sub-modules: a software sub-module that creates associations (links) between each found document and the given query**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website

Art Unit: 2168

address (relevant document) teaches the claimed linking/associating. The examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the corresponding textual index entries**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed adding because the aforementioned confirmation is added to the error database.

Regarding claim 19, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:
B) a sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the identified domain specific terms, related terms, and statistically close terms (Paragraphs 25, 34).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the identified**

Art Unit: 2168

domain specific terms, related terms, and statistically close terms” as “In this respect, when "Babaloo" is entered, the system recognizing that the letters B, D and V may have been misheard via the phonetically equivalent formulas or other means of recognizing commonly misspelled pronounceable units, will perform a comprehensive search for all other possibilities before stating "no match found." This would include in this case a change in the last part of the word entered to "ou" from "oo" to account for the possible similarity in sound. This process facilitates the search process and saves time for both the operator and the client. The aforementioned example is only one of many possible examples. There are many other letters and letter combinations, or pronounceable units, which may sound alike which this novel system recognizes” (Paragraph 25), “Additionally, a common dictionary-based spell check system may be employed and integrated within the system to further add a layer of accuracy to the results suggested and delivered to the end-user based on the end-user's language of preference. This may facilitate accurate suggestions made when the lack of search results is not due to misspellings of proper nouns (with various possible spellings), but rather due to misspellings of regular words within a language's given dictionary. Such a spell check system may be provided as an initial step in the novel method of the present invention” (Paragraph 34).

Davallou does not explicitly teach:

B) a sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the synonyms.

Brill, however, teaches “**a sub-module that filters the found documents to find additional relevant documents, based on the synonyms**” as “The distributional characteristic can then be employed to determine distributional similarity between queries. The similarity measure can be utilized to improve search engine queries by providing a mechanism to determine synonymous search terms, spelling corrections, spelling variations, and to facilitate collaborative filtering” (Paragraph 26) and “The query engine 520 can then employ the similarity measure in connection with searching the database 550 (e.g., sites and servers accessed via the Internet). The similarity measurement can improve the search via facilitating determining synonymous terms,

Art Unit: 2168

detecting grammatical errors, detecting punctuation errors, and determining term variation, and providing for collaborative filtering. Conventional approaches typically employ distributional techniques that merely utilize the running text domain that employs preceding and/or following word(s) to determine similarity. Thus, the present invention improves searches via mining saved query transactions in the query log domain to generate a substring or a string sequence distributional profile, and perform a distributional analysis on the profile” (Paragraph 69).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Brill’s** would have allowed **Davallou’s** to provide a method that returns more pertinent information to a submitted query by learning from past queries stored in a query log, as noted by **Brill** (Paragraph 09).

Davallou and **Brill** do not explicitly teach:

A) wherein the relevant document finder module comprises the following sub-modules: a sub-module that finds documents in identified categories, using the original textual index.

Whitman, however, teaches “**wherein the relevant document finder module comprises the following sub-modules: a sub-module that finds documents in identified categories, using the original textual index**” as “As further depicted by FIG. 1, each related search phrase 142 and key term 140 preferably include a single-character field prefix which indicates the search field to which the term corresponds. These prefixes may, for example, be as follows: A=author, T=title, S=subject, R=artist, L=label, B=general book; G=general item” (Column 05, lines 13-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references because teaching **Whitman’s** would have allowed **Davallou’s** and **Brill’s** to provide a search query refinement process that is more narrowly tailored to a user's request, as noted by **Whitman** (Column 01, lines 56-58).

Regarding claim 20, **Davallou** further teaches a search system comprising:

Art Unit: 2168

A) wherein the meta-data enhancer module comprises the following sub-modules: a sub-module that creates associations (links) between each found document and the given query (Paragraph 28); and

B) a sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the corresponding textual index entries (Paragraph 28).

The examiner notes that **Davallou** teaches “**wherein the meta-data enhancer module comprises the following sub-modules: a sub-module that creates associations (links) between each found document and the given query**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record” (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed linking/associating. The examiner further notes that **Davallou** teaches “**a sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the corresponding textual index entries**” as “As a final step, if the search string does not exist in the URL error memory database, the phonetic searching

Art Unit: 2168

process commences. Preferably, the search string is parsed into at least one pronounceable unit, as previously described herein. Phonetically equivalent formulas, whether predetermined or created by the system, may be applied to the at least one pronounceable unit for outputting at least one phonetic search string. These phonetic search string(s) are compared with the URL records and the URL error memory records. If it is determined that the phonetic search string(s) exists in the registered URL database, at least one result candidate which matches the phonetic search string(s) is identified as the Internet Website address. Similarly, if the at least one phonetic search string exists in the URL error memory database, at least one result candidate which matches the at least one phonetic search string is identified as the Internet Website address. The Internet Website address may then be confirmed by the user. If such confirmation is determined, whether manually or automatically via monitoring of user behavior, a confirmed phonetic search string is defined. The search string, the confirmed phonetic search string and the Internet Website address are stored in the URL error memory database as an URL error memory record" (Paragraph 28). The examiner further notes that confirming that the search string (original unsuccessful query), confirmed phonetic search string (enhanced query) and the Internet Website address (relevant document) teaches the claimed adding because the aforementioned confirmation is added to the error database.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 08/09/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue on page 09 that **"Applicants have submitted a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131, signed by all the inventors, which states the invention in the present application was conceived of prior to the Brill reference, and diligently worked on until filing the present application"**. However, the examiner wishes to refer applicant to the above section entitled "remarks" to address the submission of the 1.131 declaration.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. PGPUB 2005/0065773 issued to **Huang et al.** on 24 March 2005. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. PGPUB 2004/0254920 issued to **Brill et al.** on 16 December 2004. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. Patent 7,051,023 issued to **Kapur et al.** on 23 May 2006. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. Patent 7,136,845 issued to **Chandrasekar et al.** on 14 November 2006. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. Patent 6,169,986 issued to **Bowman et al.** on 02 January 2001. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. PGPUB 20040249808 issued to **Azzam et al.** on 09 December 2004. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. PGPUB 2005/0055341 issued to **Haahr et al.** on 10 March 2005. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. Patent 6,941,294 issued to **Flank** on 06 September 2005. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. Patent 7,197,508 issued to **Brown** on 27 March 2007. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. Patent 7,127,456 issued to **Brown** on 24 October 2006. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. Patent 6,338,055 issued to **Haggmann** on 08 January 2002. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

U.S. PG PUB 2002/0095621 issued to **Lawton et al.** on 18 July 2002. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

Article entitled "An Advanced Enterprise Information Search and Delivery System: Fulfilling IBM's one-Web vision" by **Doganata et al.**, dated 14 October 2002. The subject matter disclosed therein is pertinent to that of claims 1, 4-9, and 12-20 (e.g., methods the enhance the meta data of indexed documents).

Contact Information

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mahesh Dwivedi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2731. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:20 am – 4:40 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached (571) 272-3642. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mahesh Dwivedi
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2168

Application/Control Number: 10/664,450
Art Unit: 2168

Page 39

August 25, 2010
/Mahesh H Dwivedi/
Examiner, Art Unit 2168